



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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Funding will facilitate expansion of communications with Frederick Memorial Hospital . . .
**CITIZENS CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER AWARDED HEALTH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT**

FREDERICK, MD – The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) in collaboration with the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), the state-designated health information exchange, recently announced \$517,000 in grant funding for four independent nursing homes in Maryland. [Citizens Care & Rehabilitation Center](#) (CCRC) was one of those selected to receive funding to facilitate the adoption and use of health information technology to support coordinated care between the center and [Frederick Memorial Hospital](#) (FMH).

“We are thrilled and greatly honored to receive this very special grant that will improve communication and care transitions between CCRC and Frederick Memorial Hospital. We are grateful for the excellent relationship we have with the hospital already, but now we will have a more efficient way to electronically transfer patient information through a secure system. This grant funding will work to improve the health and well-being of our seniors, save costs and help our seniors receive the best possible care in a timely manner,” said Dr. Sonja Sperlich, president of Citizens Nursing Home Board of Trustees.

Through MHCC’s Challenge Grant program, CCRC applied for funds to make possible the expansion of health information technology already in use at the center. The funding for the program is part of a \$1.6 million federal grant awarded to the MHCC by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act to facilitate care coordination between hospitals and nursing home facilities.

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“Information technology will play an ever-expanding role in the health care delivery systems of the future. This grant funding will solidify the close working relationship between CCRC and the Frederick Regional Health System by ensuring that the electronic exchange of patient information is efficient, accurate and protected. FMH is taking the regional lead in enhancing patient care through the use of new technology. We congratulate CCRC and look forward to working with them to provide 21st century care to the patients we serve,” said Philip Stiff, director of information services for Frederick Memorial Hospital.

In addition to CCRC, grant awardees include Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Worcester County; King Farm Presbyterian Retirement Community (Ingleside at King Farm) in Montgomery County, and Lions Center for Rehabilitation and Extended Care in Allegany County.

Approximately 16 independent nursing homes submitted a proposal for funding under the grant program. An evaluation panel that consisted of representatives from MHCC, CRISP, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the University of Maryland evaluated each application. CCRC was awarded \$116,820 for health information technology for acute long term care transitions.

According to CRISP, CCRC intends to increase provider access to the total care record of its patients by integrating electronic patient care information across the long term care, laboratory and inpatient continuum of care. This will be accomplished in partnership with FMH to facilitate the transfer of electronic patient health information from multiple key sources within the Frederick County health care community.

In 2012, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, MHCC and CRISP officials announced Maryland as the first state in the nation to have all acute care hospitals connected electronically through the state-based health information exchange. Since late 2010, nearly 1,500 doctors have moved forward with electronic health records through CRISP’s Regional Extension Center Program. About 4,000 doctors and 42 of the 46 acute care hospitals in Maryland have received Meaningful Use Incentive payments through the CMS Electronic Health Record incentive program.

These systems allow providers to have better access to a patient’s health information, support public health activities and prevent medical errors. In addition, 41 Maryland hospitals are now submitting meaningful clinical information through CRISP.

For more information about the grant program, awarded facilities, and the Challenge Grant, visit: http://mhcc.dhmh.maryland.gov/hit/Pages/Itc_funding_announcement.aspx.

To discuss implementation of the grant at CCRC, contact Executive Administrator Bob Aims at 301-600-5600 or via e-mail at baims@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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